

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** May 15, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on May 5, 2006

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Bharat Mathur  
Acting Regional Administrator

Norman R. Niedergang  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Response (Fire), Battle Creek Wrecking Landfill Site, Battle Creek, Michigan**

On April 27, 2006, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requested assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) with air monitoring and air sampling at the Battle Creek Wrecking Landfill Site. The former C&D landfill has been inactive since 2000 and reverted to sheriffs' sale due to delinquent tax payments. Smoke from the landfill is escaping through cracks in the deteriorating landfill cover. Since late March 2006, the local fire department and MDEQ have responded to the site on several occasions to try and suppress the fire and smoke.

The U.S. EPA's Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) contractor collected air samples at the landfill and a nearby residential property that was being impacted by the smoke. The analytical results indicate low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) on the site but not at the adjacent residential property. MDEQ contacted the current property owner and informed him of the ongoing release. The property owner responded with a backhoe and began using on site soils to cover the surface of the landfill to suppress the smoke. The owner will continue to cover

the landfill with soil until all smoke is suppressed. MDEQ will continue to monitor the progress.

Contacts: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)  
Brad Stimple (440-250-1717)

### **Final Inspection, Greiner's Lagoon, Ballville Township, Ohio**

On Thursday, May 4, 2006, a final inspection was performed at Greiner's Lagoon, where a phytoremediation remedy had been implemented. The construction consists of a foot of clean fill over the stabilized waste oil, with switch grass planted on top of it and poplar trees surrounding the entire site. The total cost of the remedy was \$719,000. If the stabilized waste oil had been excavated, further stabilized, placed back into the excavation, and a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Type C cap placed over it, the cost would be 5.6 million dollars.

The most impressive aspect of the phytoremediation remedy is that because it was a waste oil site it had a strong petroleum odor, especially on warm days. The day the inspection was performed the switch grass was only 10 inches high, it was 75 degrees, and no petroleum odor was detected.

Contact: Tom Williams (312-886-6157)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Three Fires Middle School's Career Day, Howell, Michigan**

On April 28, 2006, On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Michelle Jaster and James Justice attended the Three Fires Middle School's Career Day. The OSCs provided a glimpse into careers with U.S. EPA specifically highlighting the work performed within the Emergency Response Branch of Superfund. The presentation included a PowerPoint presentation of pictures from various cleanup actions and emergency responses, and a hands-on table top demonstration of an oil spill cleanup using various types of protective equipment that is used when working with oil and hazardous chemicals. Approximately 100 children attended the demonstration throughout the day. U.S. EPA was one of 40 presenters that participated in the event.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)  
Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

**Green Mission/Earth Day Celebration, West Bloomfield, Michigan**

On April 22, 2006, Robert Buckley participated in the Green Mission/Earth Day Celebration sponsored by Whole Foods Market, West Bloomfield, Michigan. Whole Foods Market promotes organic foods, earth-friendly products, and alternate energy sources. Mr. Buckley provided handouts and answered questions pertaining to environmental issues including recycling.

Contact: Robert Buckley (734-692-7662)

**Christianity Elementary School Outreach, Monroe, Michigan**

On April 27, 2006, On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Jeff Kimble and James Justice presented information to an enrichment class at Christianity Elementary School in Monroe, Michigan. The enrichment class is comprised of students, grades 1 through 5, who signed up for the 6-week course which is based on science and the environment. The OSCs discussed the Emergency Response Branch of Superfund and OSC James Justice talked about some environmental careers with the government and private industry. The presentation was well received and feedback from the students was positive.

Contacts: James Justice (734-692-7687)  
Jeff Kimble (734-692-7688)

**Training, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Lake County, Indiana**

On Thursday, April 27, 2006, Civil Investigator (CI) Joe Kawecky attended training presented by the Lake County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The training consisted of familiarization with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 1910, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1600, and planning for and developing an Emergency Response Plan. The LEPC had anticipated 50 guests would attend the training. Over 100 local first responders and industry representatives attended the training. Two members of the Indiana State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) were also present and a member of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) requested that the LEPC repeat the training in Porter County. CI Joe Kawecky is the Treasurer and Finance Chairman of the Lake County LEPC and a member of the Planning Committee.

Contact: Joe Kawecky (312-886-7236)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
Tom Dunne (OSWER)  
Barry Breen (OSWER)  
Ed Chu (OSWER)  
David Lopez (OSRTI)  
Ernie Watkins (OSRTI)  
Susan Bromm (OECA)  
Phyllis Harris (OECA)  
Mike Cook (OSRTI)  
Dana Tulis (OEM)  
Elizabeth Southerland (OSRTI)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSRTI)  
Debbie Dietrich (OEM)  
Dana Tulis (OEM)  
Craig Beasley (OEM)  
Jim Woolford (FFRRO)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers